

## Remembering the sounds of yesteryear

Do any of you remember the name of the band that woke up the dancing crowd and got everybody rocking and rolling here in Hays and the surrounding territory many years ago?

Does the name, "The Flippers," ring a bell? They moved into the spotlight in the early 1960s, if my memory is still functioning. The dance crowds just couldn't get enough of them. I was privileged to attend one of their dances on a hot June night and was so taken that I wrote an article about them in either The Hays Daily News or the Ellis County Star; I worked for both.

Lee Allan Leiker, a member of the band, e-mailed me a copy of that story so I decided to bring back a few memories of an era in which a band changed our lives forever.

My story's headline roared: Flippers, Hays' own rock and roll kings, rock picnic crowd

The Flippers, Hays' own version of the rock and roll kings, rocked the annual St. Joseph's and St. Mary's parish picnic to a smashing success Tuesday night. The dance was staged at 8:30 and, up until 11 o'clock, over two-hundred teenagers and elders danced away. Despite the heat in the auditorium at Jefferson West, everyone engaged in the dancing activities was "cool" man "cool."

The Flippers, well known throughout this area, certainly deserve a word of praise, not only on their playing ability, but on their showmanship. Watching them play is a real treat.

They, unlike other rock and roll bands, don't revert to the so-called "hip" swaying to put over their act. Their ability as musicians was enough to tell all; they are great.

Local boys comprise the band. They are: Terry Wierman, lead guitar; Johnny Fross, rhythm guitar; Tommy Bunker, piano; Dennis Rohr, drums; Lee Allan Leiker, vocalist; and Jim Gross, saxophone.

The Flippers had everyone flipping with their version of today's top hits and the ones of yesterday. For many parents, this was their first opportunity to see just what goes on at a rock and roll dance. To say they overwhelmingly approved, would be an understatement.

In talking with some of the kids, their only wish was more dances of this nature throughout the school year. - T.D.

(T.D. was my signature early on in the world of journalism and I still use it frequently today.)

I don't know the status of any of the band members, but wouldn't it be a treat and a half if they all were still around and could get together in Hays -- the town in which they organized -- for a night filled with fun and I bet tears as the sounds of The Flippers bring back the memories of a wonderful time in our lives.

Thanks, guys, once again from this Man of the Plains!

Gov. Brownback is to be lauded for the legislation he signed into law at several locations in the state a while back. The law creates incentives for people to move to population-starved counties, like Sherman and Thomas. He forgot, however, to do something that would have really put meat into this new feature; he should have moved some of his family to one of those counties. Talk is cheap, if it isn't backed up by action.

I've got to brag for just a second or two about an honor received by a grand niece, Jill Marie (Dreiling) Wilson. She was recently presented the Teacher of the Year Award by the Aransas County (Texas) School District! Her grandfather is Dean Dreiling, a Hays native who has lived for many years in Corpus Christi, and graduated from what is now Thomas More Prep-Marian High School and Fort Hays State University. Jill's dad, Fred, is a well known Corpus Christi attorney.

Snippets...

"I remember 35 mph speed limit during WW2. Dad said that was a heap lot faster than a horse and buggy!"

"If Donald Trump was elected president, could he get a different hair style?"

"Go Palin.....please go somewhere!"

"...All I see are representatives who pander to the rich and greedy, and ignore the poor and needy."

"If the election was held today, Mr. Obama would be a one-term president...He just doesn't get it!"

"Yes, the Tea Party is in control of the House of Representatives. They are in control of the right and the extreme right and any other right you can find. They are nudging the old worn and torn GOP off the road. They will determine who the presidential candidate will be."

"...No speed limit can match my speed when mother nature calls!"

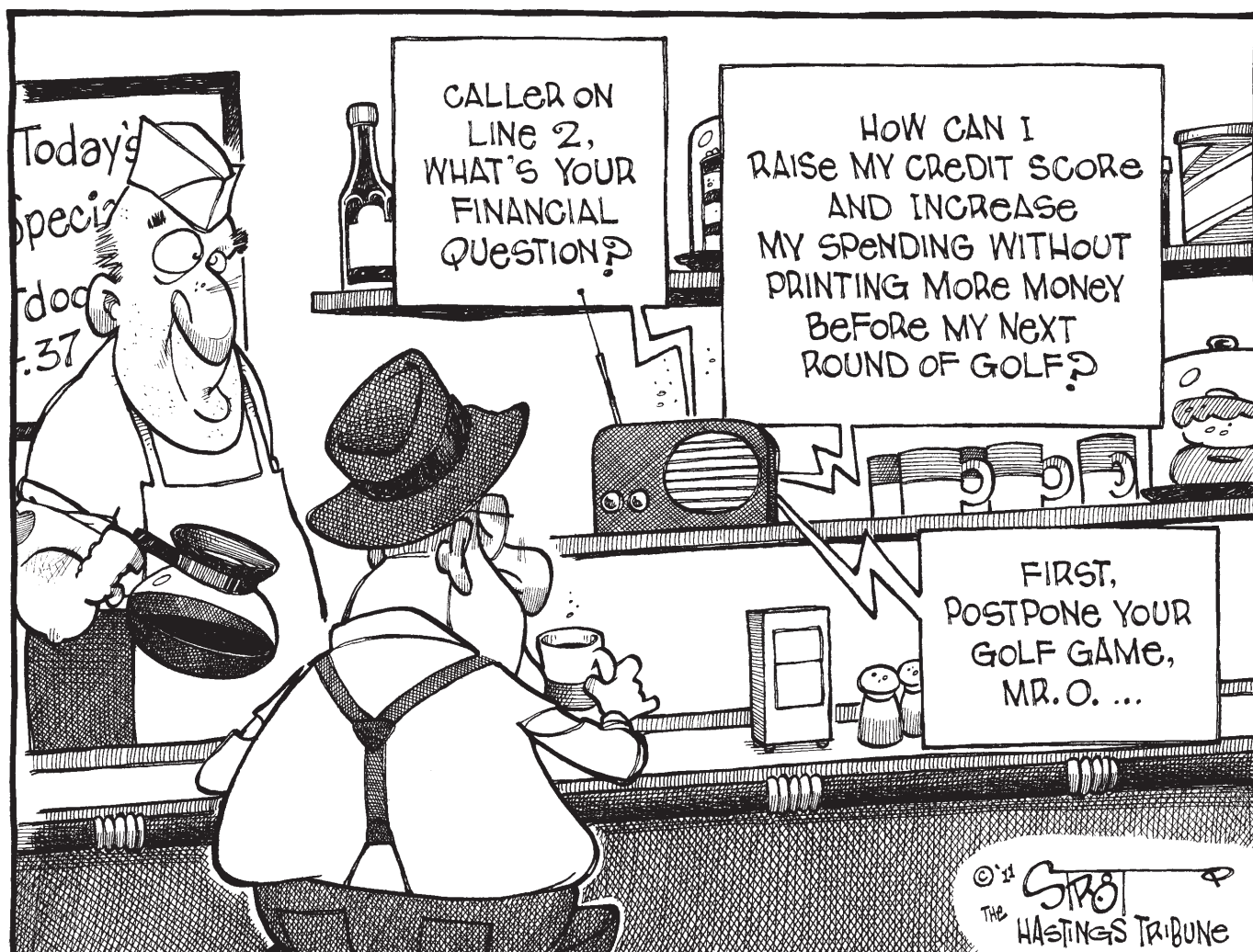
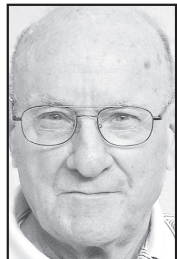
(Snippets to the e-mail address at the bottom of this column; thanks)

Have a good one!

Your comments on anything that appears in your favorite newspaper coming from my computer, are always appreciated, regardless of the tone. Simply email me at <mailto:milehitom@hotmail.com>milehitom@hotmail.com

Stop  
Look  
Listen

Tom Dreiling



## We need rain, worship and remembrance

You never hear anyone in this part of the country sing that childhood song, "Rain, rain, go away. Come again another day."

Unless, of course, it's your daughter's wedding day, or a funeral, or that farm sale you've had circled on the calendar for two months. Then, you really wish the rain would come another day.

Actually, any farmer getting buried on a rainy day, probably wouldn't mind; if you're going to a sale, you would just slip the truck into four-wheel drive; and as for the wedding...well, they make white umbrellas.

-ob-

A long-standing tradition at the little country church where Jim preaches is Easter Sunrise Services. When I was a child they were held in Huff's pasture. There was a natural grotto located on a hillside with a large stone shelf that made perfect seating. Provided you brought plenty of blankets to sit on.

Local folklore held that, at one time, it had been an Indian campground. Would be interesting to know if that were true.

Anyway, the song leader and preacher, would stand at the bottom of the grotto and the congregation would assemble,

## Out Back

Carolyn Plotts



in a semi-circle, above them. My memory-bank recalls the music sounding especially nice with nature's acoustics helping out. And, then there was the morning a mocking bird perched himself on the cross-bar of the rustic cross planted on top of the hillside. As the sun came up behind him, he sang his little heart out as the people sang, "Up From the Grave He Arose".

In more recent years, the eastward facing church steps, have substituted for the stone seating and a cross on the edge of a field across the road has been as adequate as the hillside. The people have gathered; we remembered; we sang; and we ate.

This year, a new friend of mine from a big city, was visiting family in a nearby town. The family member couldn't leave town but, my friend wanted to attend worship services. I invited her to join us

## The good and bad times of farming in Kansas

### Insight

John Schlageck

Like all Americans, Kansans are paying higher prices for their food. Attribute this rise in costs to Mexican freezes or tight supplies in the pork market, still we're all digging deeper into our pockets to pay for our next meal.

As a result, consumers should reconsider their grocery budgets to account for a 3-4 percent increase in food prices this year, according to the Consumer Price Index.

These increases impact all consumers' grocery bills including farmers and ranchers who are consumers. They too understand the pressure Kansans are feeling in the check-out line.

This nation's food producers also are taking a hit with production costs. Any Kansas farmer/rancher will tell you his/her input costs are soaring.

Fertilizer prices have doubled. Edwards County farmer Darrell Wood paid \$190 a ton for liquid nitrogen fertilizer in 2010. The same 32-percent liquid nitrogen is selling for \$416 a ton or higher today.

Diesel fuel sold for \$2.50 a gallon last year and \$1.80 a gallon in '09. As I write this, it was selling for \$4.11 a gallon but seems to be going up by the hour instead of the day.

Will the cost of fuel double? "Thank goodness corn, bean and wheat prices are strong," Wood explains. "But even with these high commodity prices, everything has to click just right."

That means buying inputs in bulk, months in advance while marketing your crops or forward contracting at the optimum time to lock in a profit.

Even that can be incredibly risky in

and gave her directions on how to find the little church.

I was watching for her to arrive. Because of the rain, the decision was made to move the services inside to the Community Building and she wouldn't have known where to go. Finally, here came a car over the hill. It was my friend and her daughter. They were so relieved to see us. My friend said, "I drove and drove. I just knew I was lost." The country must look pretty desolate to someone used to non-stop traffic and block after block of people and businesses.

After breakfast, as she was leaving, she said, "I'm so glad we came. This was nice."

She also said she thought I looked like Paula Dean. I wonder if anyone ever tells Paula Dean she looks like Carolyn Plotts.

-ob-

Memorial Day and alumni banquet time is fast approaching. This is Jim's 50th class reunion and members of his class have planned at big blow-out. There is something planned morning, noon and night for the entire weekend. It will be just fun-filled. Hope we can live through it.

are going to have to over pump to keep up with the dry conditions," Wood says. "We've got to receive help from Mother Nature."

This isn't the first time nor will it be the last Wood and his fellow Kansas farmers are faced with drought, disease, hail and other weather conditions they cannot control.

"It's part of farming," Wood says. "You have good times and bad."

And what happens on the farms and on the fields in Kansas and across this country impact the cost of food consumers buy in their neighborhood groceries.

Extremely dry conditions coupled with rising fuel prices affect every stop in the food production chain. It's the reality of farmers and ranchers paying more for basic business inputs including fuel, equipment and fertilizers that foster plant growth. Manufacturing and processing facilities also must account for rising fuel costs.

Eventually, food prices tend to level out and consumers can expect to pay only slight increases during the long term. As for the men and women who grow our food, they will hope and pray for rain so they can continue providing the fresh produce, grains and dairy products that stock our grocery shelves. With help from above they will try to maintain profitable and lasting businesses.

John Schlageck is a leading commentator on agriculture and rural Kansas. Born and raised on a diversified farm in northwestern Kansas, his writing reflects a lifetime of experience, knowledge and passion.



Thumbs up to all the hard working Valley Hope women. Emailed in.

Thumbs Up to the Norton Child Study Club. You do a great job with the Easter Egg Hunt every year and the kids really love it. Thanks for all you do with our children in mind. Emailed in.

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ISSN 1063-701X

215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton, KS 67654

Published each Tuesday and Friday by Haynes Publishing Co., 215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton, Kan. 67654. Periodicals mail postage paid at Norton, Kan. 67654.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Norton Telegram, 215 S. Kansas, Norton, Kan. 67654

Official newspaper of Norton and Norton County. Member of the Kansas Press Association, National Newspaper Association, and the Nebraska Press Association

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Nor'West Newspapers

Dick and Mary Beth Boyd  
Publishers, 1970-2002



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